AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Cancelled).

2-17 (Cancelled).

18 (Currently Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data recording medium and which express a single original signal, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are respectively specific to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main data, which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also conveyed by said data recording medium and wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

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means for defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main data portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Currently Amended). A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data recording medium and which express a single original signal, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which are respectively specific to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main data, which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also conveyed by said data recording medium;

wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction

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apparatus operating on said main data;

defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main data portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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20 (Currently Amended). A data recording medium for transferring main data which express a single original signal to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:

said data recording medium further transfers medium protection data which are respectively specific to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main data, and which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a medium protection level as a predetermined number of units, and moreover transfers protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection;

wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in

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combination specify [[a degree]] respective degrees of restriction on said reproduction of said portions of the main data by said reproduction apparatus, and

said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said [[degree]] degrees of restriction, specified by said medium protection data transferred by said recording medium and said apparatus protection data, and in accordance with said protection position information transferred by said recording medium.

21 (Currently Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is [[transferred]] conveyed by a data recording medium and which comprises main data that are to be decoded and which express a single original signal, and medium protection data, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting said medium protection data, which are respectively specific to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main data, which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also [[transferred]] conveyed by said recording medium, [[and]] wherein said recording medium [[transfers]] conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as

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positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being [[transferred]] conveyed by said recording medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

means for defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main data portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection [[level]] levels and said protection position information.

22 (Currently Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred by a recording medium and which comprises main data to be decoded and medium protection data, said main data expressing a single original signal, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting said medium protection data[[,]] which are respectively specific to [[each of one or more]] a plurality of predetermined data portions within said main data, which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also transferred by said recording medium, [[and wherein]] said recording medium [[transfers]] transferring said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

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detecting protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being transferred by said recording medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main data portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection [[level]] levels and said protection position information.

23-27 (Cancelled).

28 (Previously Presented). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

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29 (Previously Presented). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, whercin said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to bc used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

30 (Previously Presented). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

31 (Previously Presented). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said decoding

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apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

32 (Previously Presented). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said decoding apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country

33 (Previously Presented). A reproduction apparatus as recited in claim 18, wherein said means for executing reproduction of said main data operates for implementing a protection of the reproduced main data by restricting reproduction thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

34 (Previously Presented). A reproduction protection method as recited in claim 19, wherein said step of executing reproduction of said main data comprises the further step of implementing a protection of the reproduced main data by restricting reproduction thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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35 (Previously Presented). A data recording medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said reproduction of said main data is restricted in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

36 (Previously Presented). A decoding apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein said means for executing decoding of said main data operates for implementing a protection of the decoded main data by restricting decoding thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

37 (Previously Presented). A decoding protection method apparatus as recited in claim 22, wherein said step of executing decoding of said main data operates for implementing a protection of the decoded main data by restricting decoding thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

38 (Previously Presented). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

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39 (Previously Presented). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

40 (Previously Presented). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

41 (Previously Presented). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

42 (Previously Presented). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said

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predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

43 (Previously Presented). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

44 (Previously Presented). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

45 (Previously Presented). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

46 (Previously Presented). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

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47 (Previously Presented). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

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